Export Oriented Units which can boost the foreign exchange earning of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature of industry the items to be produced and the country to which it will be exported; and

(c) if no such survey has been conducted, what is the manner in which Government propose to boost the climate for export oriented units in the country, particularly, for the medium scale industries and small scale sector in which cases, it is not possible to ascertain the details about world wide demand of the items that can be exported from our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The EOU Scheme aims to provide an internationally competitive, duty free environment for export production at low cost. Entrepreneure can seek assistance of Commodity Councils, Boards etc. and Indian Missions abroad in ascertaining market opportunities for items proposed to be manufactured under the EOU Scheme. A number of modifications have been affected in the Scheme since 1991 with a view to improve the climate for Export Oriented Units.

## Impact of changes in Exim policy

698. SHRI F. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent changes in exim policy have not benefited the small exporters and the small-scale industries; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to revise the policy to help the small-scale sector ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) For the purpose of recognition as Export House, Trading House and Star Trading House, double weightage is given to physical export of products manufactured by Small Scale Industries (SST), handloom and handicrafts including sports goods, hand-knotted carpets and silk products. Further, under Duty Exemption Scheme, SSI unit exporting its own manufactured products, is required to execute a legal undertaking or bank guarantee equivalent to half of the normal amount of BG|LUT.

## Export of Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals

699. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of basic chemicals and pharmaceuticals to Rupee Currency Area has virtually come to a halt during the first half of the current year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor,

(c) what were the exports achieved during the corresponding period last year to the RCA; and

(d) what were the exports made to General Currency Area during the last year and the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. The total exports of the Basic Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals including Fine Chemicals during April-September, 1991 was Rs. 638.48 crores, out of which Rs. 146.65 crores was to RCA countries whereas in April-September, 1992 the total exports was Rs. 708.13 crores, out of which Rs. 34.24 crores was to RCA countries. This itself reflects that the exports to RCA countries have substantially come down but not to a halt.